The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 2003 have important proposals to prevent witnesses from the turning hostile, introduction of the concept of plea bargaining, summary trial for perjury etc.

Apart from the above, the Malimath Committee on Reforms of Criminal Justice System in its report have recommended various changes to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and other laws. The Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and they are administered by the State Governments. Therefore, before effecting major changes in these laws, consultations with State Governments are essential. Accordingly, the Report of the Malimath Committee was forwarded to the State Governments for their views.

(c) and (d) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2003 has, *inter alia*, a proposal for recording of evidence of witnesses under oath in the presence of a Magistrate in all offences punishable with death or imprisonments for seven years or more.

Programme on solar energy in private homes

833. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the success rate of the programme to provide solar energy in private homes and building in the country;

(b) why this campaign has failed in most parts of the country;

(c) what steps are being taken to provide technology to the common man to take advantage of solar energy; and

(d) which NGOs have been involved with this programme and how much grant has been provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Solar energy can be used in homes and buildings for lighting, water heating, cooking and space heating. A large number of solar energy devices have been installed in both rural and urban areas of the country under programmes supported by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Surveys conducted by independent organizations show that 97% of solar water heaters installed in Karnataka, 96% in Maharashtra and

91% in Gujarat were functional: 81% of solar cookers surveyed in Gujarat and 57% in Maharashtra were found to be in use. The functionality figures in respect of solar home lighting systems surveyed in Kerala and West Bengal have also been found to be more than 90%. The World's two largest solar steam cooking systems are also functioning successfully in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. Solar buildings constructed in Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh have been found to save substantial amounts of energy used for heating.

In the light of the above experience, Government does not agree that efforts made to promote solar energy in the country have failed. There is however scope for substantial expansion of the programme.

(c) Among the measures taken by Government to promote solar energy use in homes and buildings are:

(i) Subsidy is provided on solar lighting systems installed in homes and non-commercial organizations; higher levels of subsidy are provided in the north-eastern and special category States.

(ii) A soft loan scheme for financing the installation of solar water hearting systems both by home owners and commercial organizations is being implemented through IREDA and seven banks.

(iii) The Ministry is supporting awareness promotion activities, training programmes and business meets all over the country.

(iv) Financial support is being provided for the design and construction of solar buildings by Government and Semi-Government organisations.

(v) Standards and specifications have been laid down for various solar products and test facilities have been established to ensure quality of the products supplied to users.

(vi) 'Aditya solar shops' are being established in several cities and towns to ensure availability of solar products and provision of servicing facilities.

(d) Several NGOs such as the All India Women's Cnference, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Wold Renewal Spiritual Trust, Social Work and Research Centre, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Ladakh Ecological Development Group and Indian Rural Energy Network have been involved in the propagation of solar energy devices used in homes and buildings. No grant has however been released to them during 2003-04.